

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 141224
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S/S-O:SVALERGA
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
INFO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE 0000

S E C R E T STATE 141224

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, IR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CARTER LETTER TO SHAH

REF: STATE 129180

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO
SHAH IN REPLY TO SHAH'S MAY 8 LETTER. IN DELIVERING LETTER
BELOW TO HIM, PRESIDENT HAS ASKED FOLLOWING ORAL MESSAGE BE
GIVEN: QTE: AFTER MY TALKS THIS WEEK WITH THE FRENCH,
I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO RESOLVE OUR DIFFER-
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ENCES REGARDING PAKISTAN REPROCESSING. END QTE. AS
ADDITIONAL TALKING POINT, YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT, WITH THE
PROSPECT THIS OBSTACLE WILL BE REMOVED, WE HOPE OUR OPPOR-
TUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL SECURITY WILL BE ENHANCED.
TO THIS END, THE SECRETARY PROPOSES SENDING UNDER SECRETARY
NEWSOM TO SOUTH ASIA, INCL;DING TEHRAN, PROBABLY
DURING JULY, TO DISCUSS HOW WE CAN FURTHER REGIONAL CO-

OPERATION GENERALLY AND HELP REASSURE PAKISTAN SPECIFICALLY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTY:

I FULLY SHARE THE CONCERN ABOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN THAT YOU STATED SO LUCIDLY IN YOUR LETTER OF MAY 8. DOMINATION OF AFGHANISTAN BY THE SOVIET UNION WOULD BE A DEVELOPMENT OF GREAT SERIOUSNESS FOR THE FREE WORLD. IT SHOULD, THEREFORE, BE A MATTER OF HIGH NATIONAL POLICY FOR THOSE OF US WHO SHARE THIS VIEW TO COOPERATE CLOSELY OVER THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS.

ONE IMPORTANT WAY WE CAN WORK TOGETHER IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS TO TRY TO HOLD THE AFGHAN LEADERSHIP TO ITS STATED INTENTION TO REMAIN NON-ALIGNED. IN OUR OWN BILATERAL RELATIONS, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN AND CONTINUE OUR COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES THERE. I BELIEVE THAT, TO THE EXTENT WE CAN LIMIT AFGHANISTAN'S DEPENDENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION AND BROADEN ITS TIES ELSEWHERE, WE WILL BE MAKING A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO THE GOALS WHICH YOU AND I SHARE.

WE MUST RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THOSE EFFORTS MAY NOT BE SUCCESSFUL. CONSEQUENTLY, I WILL WANT TO KEEP IN CLOSE
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PERSONAL CONTACT WITH YOU, AND I HOPE AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WILL BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION AND REVIEW POLICY CONSIDERATIONS CONTINUOUSLY WITH YOU AND OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. YOUR OWN SPECIAL VANTAGE POINT AND DEPTH OF EXPERIENCE IN THAT REGION WILL BE PARTICULARLY VALUABLE IN ASSISTING ME TO EVALUATE THE COURSE OF EVENTS.

WE WILL ALSO BE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN, WHICH SHARES OUR DEEP CONCERNS ABOUT EVENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND WHAT THEY MAY PRESAGE FOR THE SECURITY OF THE REGION. WE ARE ACTIVELY CONSIDERING STEPS WE CAN TAKE TO CONTRIBUTE TO PAKISTAN'S STABILITY AND STRENGTH, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO CONSULT CLOSELY WITH YOU ON THE BEST WAY TO ACHIEVE OUR SHARED GOAL OF A SECURE PAKISTAN IN A PEACEFUL SOUTH ASIA.

WITH REGARD TO THE COUNTRIES ON IRAN'S WESTERN BORDER, I BELIEVE THE ACTIONS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN OR HAS UNDERWAY GO FAR TOWARD STRENGTHENING OUR FRIENDS IN THAT AREA AND ASSURING STABILITY THERE. THE SUPPLY OF ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT WILL BE AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THOSE

COUNTRIES, REINFORCING BOTH THEIR ABILITY AND THEIR RESOLVE TO FACE THREATS FROM RADICAL ELEMENTS. YOUR CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THEM WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THEIR ABILITY TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

WHILE OUR MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT HAS NOT PROGRESSED AS RAPIDLY AS I HAD HOPED, THE UNITED STATES REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS. WE ARE IN DAILY CONTACT WITH THE PARTIES AND EXPECT TO BE MOVING AHEAD SHORTLY. I PARTICULARLY APPRECIATE YOUR HELPFUL ROLE IN RESPECT TO THE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS' PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON.

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DESPITE THE DISAPPOINTING SETBACK IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE EARLIER THIS MONTH, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT MY ADMINISTRATION REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO ON ARMS FOR TURKEY. I SHARE YOUR CONCERN REGARDING THE TERMS OF THE ARMS EMBARGO. WE EXPECT THE ISSUE TO COME TO A VOTE ON THE FLOOR OF BOTH HOUSES SOMETIME THIS SUMMER. TURKEY IS FACING A NUMBER OF DIFFICULT PROBLEMS--ECONOMIC, POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY--AND HER FRIENDS AND ALLIES SHOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRONG AND WESTERN-ORIENTED TURKEY WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT FOR THE SECURITY OF THE REGION.

THE U.S. IS WATCHING CLOSELY THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. WE ARE PREPARED TO CHALLENGE SOVIET AND CUBAN EFFORTS TO GAIN PREDOMINANT INFLUENCE IN THE REGION WITH A COMBINATION OF DIPLOMATIC PRESSURES AND DIRECT U.S. MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AS IN SUDAN AND KENYA. WE CANNOT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, HOWEVER, IN SITUATIONS IN WHICH WE WOULD BE AIDING A COUNTRY THAT IS SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATING ANOTHER NATION'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. WE ARE DISTURBED BY RECENT REPORTS REACHING US OF RENEWED ASSISTANCE FROM SOMALIA TO THE INSURGENTS IN THE OGADEN. SUCH ACTIVITY IS CONTRARY TO THE ASSURANCES WE HAVE REQUIRED OF PRESIDENT SIAD THAT HE LIVE AT PEACE WITH HIS NEIGHBORS. IT GIVES THE SOVIETS AND THE CUBANS AN EXCUSE TO STAY IN ETHIOPIA WITH LARGE CONTINGENTS OF TROOPS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT PRESIDENT SIAD MIGHT REFRAIN FROM ENCOURAGING GUERRILLAS AND TURN HIS COUNTRY TOWARD PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT. THIS WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF CLOSER TIES BETWEEN THE WEST AND SOMALIA, WOULD ENCOURAGE STABILITY IN THE REGION, AND WOULD DEPRIVE THE SOVIETS OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION IN THE AREA BY EX-

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PLOITING TENSIONS.

FINALLY, IN OUR DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WE WILL
CONTINUE TO IMPRESS UPON THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP THE IMPOR-
TANCE FOR UNITED STATES-SOVIET RELATIONS OF SOVIET

RESTRAINT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND RESPECT FOR THE
INDEPENDENCE OF ALL COUNTRIES. LET ME ASSURE YOU OF THE
FIRM UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE DEFENSE OF OUR
FRIENDS AND ALLIES ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM AGGRESSION
FROM ANY QUARTER.

YOUR MAJESTY, I AM ENCOURAGED THAT YOU HAVE WRITTEN TO ME
WITH SUCH FRANKNESS. THIS IS PRECISELY THE KIND OF RELA-
TIONSHIP WHICH I HOPED WE WOULD DEVELOP AS A RESULT OF
OUR TALKS IN WASHINGTON AND TEHRAN. WE MUST CONTINUE IN
THIS SAME FRANK AND OPEN SPIRIT.

SINCERELY,

JIMMY CARTER

HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY
MOHAMMAD REZA PAHLAVI
SHAHANSHAH OF IRAN
TEHRAN

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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